

Institute by generously contributing to its funds. The Comte de Briey, who has served as a member of the Institute's Consultative Committee, was able, during a recent visit to Belgium, to give an account of the Institute's war-time activities and future plans to the Belgian Colonial Minister and the Directors of the Institut Royal Colonial Belge and the Université Coloniale de Belgique.

Opportunities for the closer participation of Africanists in the U.S.A. are being actively explored. Dr. Edwin Smith provided the Institute with a valuable review of the possibilities on his return from the United States, in the light of which American members have been invited to give us their views. A number of constructive suggestions and offers of assistance have been received from them in response to this inquiry.

### *Handbook of African Languages*

THE grant from the British Colonial Office towards the work on the Handbook of African Languages has been renewed for a second year; Miss Bryan's article in this number of *Africa* will give some indication of the problems to be faced in this undertaking. A bibliographical and lexicographical study of recent works on Bantu languages, by Professor Doke of Witwatersrand University, is now in the press, and further publications in connexion with the Handbook are in preparation.

### *Research in the British Cameroons*

A FIRST report has been received from Dr. Kaberry outlining her plans for the conduct of her study on the position of women in the British Cameroons (Bamenda division) (see *Africa*, January 1945). For the present she is basing her work on Kimbaw, investigating social conditions there and in the surrounding villages.

### *Ethnographic Survey of Africa*

THE Institute has undertaken the preparation of an Ethnographical survey of Africa. The importance, for scientific research and for social development and welfare, of a comprehensive survey of the ethnic groupings, distributions and salient social conditions of the peoples of Africa has been urged in the Institute itself and elsewhere for a number of years. Recently the need for an organization which would assemble, collate and make available the wealth of existing but uncoordinated material has been more acutely realized in connexion with plans for economic and general social development after the war. In the absence of such a survey much of the extant material is virtually inaccessible to scholars and governments alike. In addition to published work there is, in the governmental archives and the records of private institutions, much valuable material which for lack of organization rather than from any desire to restrict access has hitherto remained unavailable.

The Survey will, it is hoped, be of direct value to all Africanists and will also help to ensure that the limited funds and personnel available for further research are directed where they are most needed and most likely to produce results of scientific and practical value. Its object is to present a systematic outline of existing knowledge with a critical bibliography of available sources and so to provide reliable data of value to students and those professionally concerned with African affairs.

The Institute has received a grant for a five-year period from the British Colonial Development and Welfare Fund towards the cost of the Survey and has welcomed assurances of readiness to co-operate from both French and Belgian official and scientific organizations. In West Africa the work will be carried out in close collaboration with the I.F.A.N. which is undertaking a 'Répertoire des Populations' in French West Africa. While it is necessary to envisage an inquiry extending over some considerable time, and to frame plans accordingly, provisional results will be made available as the Survey progresses.

Reports on the peoples of a particular region will be assembled in accordance with the general plan and issued together with a critical bibliography and a series of maps showing tribal and other distributions.

The Survey will include essential data on the nomenclature, linguistic affiliations and distributions of tribal and other groups. It will outline the salient features of the demography, economic life, social organization, and other cultural features of each people and provide a critical bibliography covering these fields. In order that it shall be as widely useful as possible, some indication of the character and scope of the agencies of modern development and of the trends of social and economic change will be given.

Work has already started on the systematization of material in Britain relating to Tanganyika and adjacent areas in East Africa and to Nigeria in West Africa. It is desirable to amplify and correct existing published data as early as possible by the study of unpublished material in the colonial territories. For this the support and co-operation of the Colonial Offices, the Governments of the several territories and of non-official bodies will be sought as the Survey progresses.

The Survey is being conducted with the advice of a committee of experts under the chairmanship of Professor A. R. Radcliffe-Brown. A panel of consultants is being set up to secure the collaboration of ethnographers and other experts overseas. Professor I. Schapera of the University of Cape Town and Dr. Max Gluckman, Director of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, have consented to act as correspondents and regional organizers for the work in Southern and South-central Africa.

It is realized that during the present period of emergency, which involves a severe strain on the depleted staffs of the official and other services in Colonial territories, only limited requests can be made for assistance with reference to local records. But assistance is invited from all field workers, administrative, educational and technical officers in the Colonial services and the staffs of missionary and other organizations who have, or can direct us to, unpublished material likely to be of value. A more detailed account of the scope and proposed arrangements of the Survey will be sent to any who can assist in this way.

### *The Institute's Card Catalogue of Africanist Literature*

CONSIDERABLE progress has been made by the Librarian in the preparation of a card catalogue of published literature covering the fields with which the Institute is concerned. The catalogue, which is classified under author, regional, and subject headings, has been based for the more recent years on the current bibliography appearing regularly in *Africa*. This has been supplemented and entries are also being carried back to include earlier publications. Special efforts are being made to fill gaps in information derived from continental and African publications. Although the work will require some time to complete, it is sufficiently far advanced to be of use to students and is available in the Library for all members of the Institute.

### *Ethnographic Reconnaissance in the Gambia*

THE Director, Prof. Daryll Forde, visited the Gambia in May last at the invitation of the Governor in order to ascertain in a brief field reconnaissance the needs and opportunities for anthropological studies likely to be required in connexion with plans for the further development of native administration.

### *Membership*

MEMBERSHIP of the Institute is increasing; over seventy new members have joined since January 1945. The circulation of this Journal is limited by paper control restrictions. The attention of members whose subscriptions are in arrears is called to the notice printed in the January 1945 issue of *Africa*.